

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 3 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. Patent 6,492,909) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,393) and Hadley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,243,640).

The present invention is a component selection control system in which a turner (2), CD (3), taper recorder (4) and MD (5) each have there own audio output circuit (21, 31, 41 and 51) with their own on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54). In addition, the tape recorder (4) and the MD (5) have their own audio input circuit (42 and 52). A control circuit (22, 32, 43, and 53) indirectly controls the operation of the on-off switches (23, 33, 44, 45, 54, and 55) based on input from control circuit (15) which receives input from input unit (14).

Washikawa describes an audio signal processing device in which a single function change-over switch (21) is used to select between playback audio signal contact pieces (11P-14P) connected to terminals (11-14). In addition, recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R) are connected to signal processing circuit (22). No switch is described for switching between recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R). Still further, control bus contact pieces (11C-14C) are connected to a

connection switch unit (32) to enable sequential time division multiplexing with the micro-computer in the audio appliance connected to terminal units (11-14).

Washikawa et al. states in column 4, lines 35-48

“In this case, the connection switch unit 32 is comprised of connection switches 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d prepared for the respective terminal units independently, and can connect sequentially each of the switches 32a to 32d in a time division manner under the control of the system controller 31. In other words, the connection state of the switch 32a, the connection state of the switch 32b, the connection state of the switch 32c, and the connection state of the switch 32d are repeated sequentially to perform the communication in a time sharing fashion with a micro-computer of an audio appliance connected to each of the terminal units 11 to 14. Under the communication state in this case, data is transmitted bidirectionally in time division in accordance with a predetermined rule.” (Emphasis Added)

Simpson describes an audio video control device. This device employs two switches (214 and 234). As discussed in column 3, lines 54-58 of Simpson

“The 3-bit input select signal 208 causes switch 214 to select among the four or eight output signals 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 from four or eight sources, such as video tape recorders, to generate a single source signal 232. The switch 214 comprises an 8-to-1 selector, as is well known in the art.”

Further as discussed in column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 2 of Simpson

“The single source signal 232 is input to a second switch 234 controlled by the 2-bit output select signal 210. The 2-bit output select signal 210 causes switch 234 to select among the four output signals 236, 238, 240 or 242 to four destinations, such as video tape recorders. The switch 234 comprises a 1-to-4-selector (or 1-to-8 selector with only 4 outputs), as is well known in the art.”

Therefore, switch (214) selects one of eight output signals to generate a single source signal (232) and switch (234) takes the single source signal (234) and outputs its to one of four output signals (236, 238, 240 and 242).

Hadley et al. describes in the abstract that

“An output transducer and amplifier are shared between an audio system and a cellular Phone in an automotive vehicle. An interface arbitrates between the program audio signals and the phone audio signals to select or deselect each of the audio signals depending on the status of each audio source. When only one source is in use then normally the audio signals from that source are selected. If both sources are turned on but a phone call is not in progress, then audio signals from both sources are simultaneously presented to the output transducers after summing. When a call is in progress, only the phone audio signals are selected. (Emphasis Added)

Hadley et al. further states in column 2, lines 1-5 that

“The summer/multiplexer selects both the program audio signal and the phone audio signals simultaneously when the program audio source and the telephone are both in use and a call is not in progress. Only the phone audio signals are selected when a call is in progress. (Emphasis Added)

According to the Office Action, Hadley et al. assertedly teaches that when more than one signal component is selected (such as radio and telephone) then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time (see column 1 line 62 to column 2 line 10). However, the “signal input component” such as the radio and telephone mentioned by the Examiner is for feeding AV signals (such as program audio signals and phone audio signals) to an amplifier etc. This is a “signal output component” of the present invention.

On the other hand, a "signal input component" of the present invention is for receiving and recording a signal. In the present invention, when more than one signal input component is selected (such as a tape recorder and an MD player) then more than one on-off switch is closed and the AV signal delivered from one signal output component (such as a tuner) can be supplied to more than one signal input component at the same time to enable these more than one signal input component to simultaneously record the AV signal. This feature is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Therefore, claims 1 and 3 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

"A component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, at least one signal input component for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit having connected thereto the signal output components and the signal input component, the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components as required for sound and/or image reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component to the signal input component, the component selection control system being characterized in that: each of the signal output components has a separate and independent on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit therethrough, the signal processing control unit having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component, the signal output lines of the signal output components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit, the on-off switches being controllable independently for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit, wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on and more than one signal input component may be accessed at any given moment in time, wherein said AV signal delivered from one signal output component can be supplied to said more than one signal input

component at the same time by closing said more than one on-off switch.”
(Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (U.S. Patent 6,492,909) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,393) and Hadley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,243,640) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-5, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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